



District of Columbia NSF Naval Observatory

Facility and Location

Naval Support Facility (NSF) Naval Observatory includes the U.S. Naval Observatory (USNO), one of the oldest scientific agencies in the country. Established in 1830 as the Depot of Charts and Instruments, its primary mission was to care for the Navy's chronometers, charts, and other navigational equipment. Today, USNO is the preeminent authority in the area of precise time and distributes earth orientation parameters and other astronomical data required for accurate navigation and fundamental astronomy. USNO headquarters in Washington, D.C. is the administrative and scientific hub of observatory operations and is home to the James Melville Gilliss Library, one of the most complete collections of astronomical literature in the world. USNO's mission includes determining the positions and motions of the Earth, Sun, Moon, planets, stars, and other celestial objects; providing astronomical data; determining precise time; measuring the Earth's rotation; and maintaining the Master Clock for the U.S. Observatory astronomers formulate the theories and conduct the relevant research necessary to improve these mission goals. This astronomical and timing data is essential for accurate navigation and the support of communications on Earth and in Space. It is also used extensively by other agencies of the government and the public at large.

Media Sampled and Findings

Drinking Water — In 2007, one sample detected perchlorate at 1.4 ppb. Prior to 2007, one sample detected perchlorate at 0.32 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

Not applicable. All samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb.